

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 03006 051411Z
ACTION SCS-06

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-----026362 051427Z /47

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9372

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 3006

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, RO, IT, YO
SUBJ: SMUGGLING ATTEMPT
REF: BUCHAREST 2970

FOLLOWING IS BUCHAREST 2888 SENT ACTION ROME INFO BELGRADE
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

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FOR THOMAS R. BOYD, CUSTOMS ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, RO, IT, YO
SUBJ: SMUGGLING ATTEMPT
REF: ROME 7687

1. UPON RECEIPT OF REF ON 27 APRIL, EMBOFF GAVE REF INFORMATION TO ROMANIAN CUSTOMS CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL DIVISION GULBENKIAN. AS REF DID NOT SPECIFY WHAT DATE MR. HERSCOVICI (SUSPECT) WOULD BE ARRIVING IN BUCHAREST, ASSUMPTION WAS MADE THAT REF MENTIONED PAN AM FLIGHT OF 27 APRIL.

2. GULBENKIAN GAVE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO EMBOFF ON 28 APRIL: SUSPECT ARRIVED WITH WIFE AND CHILD ON 27 APRIL
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AS ASSUMED. HE PRESENTED BOTH A VALID U.S. PASSPORT AND A VALID ROMANIAN PASSPORT AT PASSPORT CONTROL POINT. HE DECLARED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS, ALL OF GOLD AND/OR ENCRUSTED WITH PRECIOUS STONES: ONE PENDANT, ONE WATCH, TWO BRACELETS, TWO RINGS. SUSPECT'S WIFE DECLARED ONE WATCH, ONE PENDANT, ONE PAIR OF EARRINGS, SEVEN RINGS AND THREE BRACELETS (ONE WAS ANTIQUE AND APPARENTLY WAS

MORE VALUABLE THAN THE OTHERS). ACCORDING TO GULBENKIAN SUSPECT SHOWED A CINCINNATI, OHIO, CUSTOMS DOCUMENT LISTING ALL OF THESE ITEMS AND GIVING SUSPECT THE RIGHT TO RE-IMPORT ALL OF THEM INTO THE UNITED STATES. GULBENKIAN, WHO HAS RECEIVED CUSTOMS TRAINING IN THE U.S., THOUGHT THAT THE DOCUMENT LOOKED AUTHENTIC. HE DID NOT KNOW IF IT WAS DATED. ASKED WHY HE WAS CARRYING THESE ITEMS, SUSPECT STATED THAT THEY WERE ALL PERSONAL PROPERTY. HE SAID PURPOSE OF HIS TRAVEL TO ROMANIA WAS TOURISM.

3. A SEARCH OF SUSPECT TURNED UP THE FOLLOWING UNDECLARED ITEMS: FOUR WEDDING RINGS AND SEVEN RINGS. THE UNDECLARED ITEMS WERE SEIZED AND SUSPECT WAS FINED FIVE THOUSAND LEI (CIRCA \$416). COMMENT: THE POSSIBLE FINE WAS FROM FIVE HUNDRED LEI TO FIVE THOUSAND LEI.

4. CUSTOMS CONFISCATED ALL UNDECLARED ITEMS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A COUPLE OF RINGS AND WATCHES FOR PERSONAL USE, TO BE RETURNED ON SUSPECT'S DEPARTURE FROM ROMANIA IN APPROXIMATELY FIVE WEEKS. SEARCH DID NOT REVEAL WHERE SUSPECT INTENDED TO GO FROM ROMANIA, E.G. HE HAD NO OTHER PLANE TICKETS PAST BUCHAREST.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH GULBENKIAN SAID AUTHORITIES HAVE NO IDEA CURRENT WHEREABOUTS OR INTERNAL TRAVEL PLANS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUSPECT, WE ASSUME THAT APPROPRIATE POLICE ELEMENTS KEEPING AN EYE ON SUSPECT AND HIS WIFE. AS FAR AS ROMANIAN LAWS ARE CONCERNED SUSPECT'S CASE WAS SETTLED BY PAYMENT OF FINE.

6. PLEASE ADVISE IF ANY OTHER ACTION IS REQUIRED.
AGGREY

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